

Message Text

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72

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 251800Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8309

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T BONN 15496

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR, US

SUBJECT: U.S./EUROPEAN RELATIONS: INITIAL REPLY OF
POMPIDOU ON POSSIBLE PARIS NATO SUMMIT

REF: (A) BONN 14345, (B) BONN 15076

1. FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL TOLD THE
AMBASSADOR OCT 25 THAT FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU HAD
IN A LETTER TO CHANCELLOR BRANDT PROVIDED A FIRST
RESERVED REACTION TO THE SUGGESTION THAT FRANCE MIGHT
TAKE THE INITIATIVE OF INVITING THE HEADS OF GOVERN-
MENT AND THEIR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO PARIS FOR A NATO
SUMMIT WITH THE PRESIDENT (REFTELS). ACCORDING TO
VAN WELL, POMPIDOU SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE RECEIVED
THIS SUGGESTION AND APPRECIATED THE SPIRIT IN WHICH IT
WAS MADE, BUT THAT IT REMAINED PREMATURE TO OFFER A
DEFINITIVE REPLY ON SUCH A PROCEDURAL QUESTION.
POMPIDOU REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT HE WOULD PREFER FIRST
TO SEE THE SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF THE U.S./EC DECLARA-
TION, THE NATO DECLARATION OF THE FIFTEEN AND THE EC
IDENTITY PAPER PRESENTLY BEING ELABORATED.

2. VAN WELL SAID HE CONSIDERED THE FRENCH REPLY TO BE
RESERVED BUT TENDED TO TAKE IT AS A POSITIVE RATHER
THAN NEGATIVE INDICATION. TO THE AMBASSADOR'S
SECRET

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QUESTION, VAN WELL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD POMPIDOU TO BE
LINKING A POSSIBLE PARIS NATO SUMMIT TO THE RESULTS OF
THE TWO DECLARATIONS AND THE EC IDENTITY PAPER IN THE
SENSE THAT FRANCE WOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THIS

QUESTION (RATHER THAN AUTOMATICALLY ISSUE SUCH AN INVITATION) IF THE THREE ENUMERATED EXERCISES PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

3. IN A SEPARATE OCT 24 CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF FONOFF FRENCH DESK OFFICER INTERPRETED POMPIDOU'S REPLY AS "BEING RETICENT BUT NOT NEGATIVE." FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID POMPIDOU'S WISH TO POSTPONE THIS MATTER UNTIL SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DETERMINED IN THE MAXIMUM DEGREE TO FRENCH ADVANTAGE WAS WHAT HE WOULD CHARACTERIZE AS A CLASSICAL FRENCH DIPLOMATIC REPLY. HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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